

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 and 29-31 were pending in the present application. Claim 30 has been canceled, claims 1, 9, 29 and 31 have been amended, and claims 32-36 have been added herein. Accordingly, claims 1-21, 29 and 32-36 are currently pending in the present application.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-7, 9-12, 18, 20, 21 and 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,538,319 to Terui ("Terui"). The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terui in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,075,710 to Lau ("Lau"). Examiner rejected claims 8, 13-16 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terui in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,150,193 to Glenn ("Glenn"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections in view of the amendments to the claims.

Independent claim 1 requires that the conductive material comprise "a first trace connected to said conductive ring and surrounding a selected one of said plurality of contacts." Independent claim 9 requires that the conductive material comprise "a first trace connected to said conductive ring and surrounding a selected one of said plurality of contacts." Independent claim 29 requires that the conductive material comprise "a trace connected to said conductive ring and surrounding a selected one of said plurality of contacts." None of the references teach or suggest such features.

In the rejection of claim 30 in the Office Action, the Examiner points to Terui Figures 2B-C as allegedly showing a trace surrounding a selected contact. However, those figures do not show a trace surrounding a selected one of the contacts. Nor does the remainder of Terui or the other cited references. Terui does disclose an interconnection 3a connected between a seal ring 4 and a pad 2, but none of the interconnections disclosed by Terui is shown surrounding a pad, let alone surrounding a pad and connected to the seal ring.

Two examples of a trace surrounding one or more contacts are shown in Figure 3 of the present application. While the claimed invention is not limited to these specific examples, they are useful in illustrating the differences between the claimed invention

and the cited references. In Figure 3, trace 115a is shown surrounding contact 114a, and trace 115b/115c/115d is shown surrounding contacts 114b/114c/114d/114e/114f/114g. Advantageously, surrounding a contact with a trace may allow the contact to be used as a controlled impedance line when the conductive ring is coupled to ground. See associated text on page 11, lines 8-18.


Because the cited prior art does not disclose all of the features of independent claims 1, 9 and 29, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of those claims be withdrawn.

Claims 2-8 and 33-34 depend from claim 1, claims 10-21 and 35-36 depend from claim 9, and claims 31-32 depend from claim 29. Without conceding that the Examiner's assertions are valid with respect to the limitations of the rejected dependent claims, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-8, 10-21 and 31-36 are patentable over the cited references because of their dependency from their respective independent claims for the reasons discussed above.

In light of the amendments and remarks above, Applicant respectfully asserts that the application is now in condition for allowance and requests that Examiner pass the case to issuance. If the Examiner should have any questions regarding this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Jim Brady at 972-917-4371.

Respectfully submitted,

1/2/04
Date



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